



City of Atlanta

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Department of Public Works

Richard Mendoza

Commissioner

Dexter C. White

Deputy Commissioner

#### A FEW OF THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

Adopt-A-Spot/Street

Bulk Waste  
Collection

Transportation Traffic  
Studies

Illegal Dumping

Recycling

Residential Street  
Sweeping

DPW Works on the Street is a bi-monthly publication of the Department of Public Works. Content is approved by DPW Executive Management. Articles/information shared is voluntary and subject to approval. DPW reserves the right to manage content as appropriate to departmental programs/initiatives and communications policies. To comment or inquire about this publication send an email to [vbell-smith@atlantaga.gov](mailto:vbell-smith@atlantaga.gov)

DPW

## WORKS ON THE STREET

MARCH 2013

### DPW AT YOUR SERVICE



"Thank you for your prompt action to raise the sign."

- Senator Frank Ginn, GA District

We are excited about serving the City of Atlanta with a well managed public right-of-way. In doing so we have a keen awareness of the importance exceeding expectations in our delivery of services.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is a 24/7 agency. On a daily basis, we work diligently to respond to citizen concerns in the public right-of-way. Standard response times vary for most requests. However, our employees may exercise

judgment and react to some requests more readily in the interest of public safety.

January through March of each year, pedestrian activity around the downtown government center is especially heightened during the Annual Legislative Session. With more pedestrians using the sidewalks and crosswalks in the area, the City desires to maximize the safety of the public right-of-way. When DPW received a request to raise a pedestrian sign, we reacted quickly. "Kudos to you and your team! The Senator was very pleased," said Justin Tanner, Legislative Analyst, External/Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Mayor Kasim Reed.

We welcome comments and concerns regarding our services as well as in reporting potential hazards in the public right-of-way. Our Customer Service Center is available Monday - Friday, 8:15 am - 5:00 pm at (404) 330-6333 or by email to [publicworks@atlantaga.gov](mailto:publicworks@atlantaga.gov).



Richard Mendoza  
Commissioner

Email: [rmendoza@atlantaga.gov](mailto:rmendoza@atlantaga.gov)

#### March is Women's History Month.

DPW celebrates the contributions of women in history and contemporary society.



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#### National Public Works is May 19 - 25, 2013

The American Public Works Association (APWA) has selected "Because of Public Works..." as its theme for 2013's National Public Works Week, which will be celebrated May 19-25. The theme is about the quality of life brought to communities around the world. We are able to have clean water, safe streets and neighborhoods, efficient traffic and safe clean communities "Because of Public Works..."

*There are 3 groups of public servants in Atlanta who do excellent work: police, fire fighters, and trash haulers. All of these are superb.*

- Thank you, K. Nadreau  
SW Atlanta Resident



January 2013 - Solid Waste Crews joined with the Department of Corrections to clear away nearly 300 tons of trash and debris from underneath the M.L. King, Jr. Bridge. A recent fire at the bridge revealed a homeless encampment. Years of trash had compacted under the bridge.



Like us on  
Facebook

@AtlantaPublicWorks

## SWEET, 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY APRIL 2013



Anthony Byrd, Louise Simmons, Michael Crawford, & Carl Aaron - DPW SWEET



DPW continues to improve our service delivery. The Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (SWEET) enforces Solid Waste Code violations in the public

right-of-way. The SWEET Team Members Anthony Byrd, Louise Simmons, Michael Crawford, and Carl Aaron were sworn in by the Atlanta Police Department, April 2012 as Code Enforcement Agents. They join the city's team of code enforcement officers who are trained in the applicable Municipal Code requirements relative to their department's

primary area of purview. SWEET Agents are assigned per quadrant of the city. Their primary goal is to keep public spaces clean and safe, by educating customers about proper waste disposal and holding those accountable who violate the city's rules and regulations. Learn more about SWEET on the DPW webpage at [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov).

- Decius Aaron, SWS Supervisor  
Email: [daaron@atlantaga.gov](mailto:daaron@atlantaga.gov)

## ATLANTA, GREEN CITY AWARD FINALIST

The City of Atlanta has been selected as a Green City Award finalist by Waste & Recycling News for outstanding leadership and tireless commitment to the introduction, education and implementation of a successful residential recycling program.

The Green City Awards recognize cities that are setting an example in

reducing waste and boosting recycling efforts. As a finalist, the City of Atlanta will be honored at the Green City Awards ceremony on Thursday, March 21 at the Residential Recycling Conference (RRC) to be held March 19-21 at the

*Continued on Page 4*



## SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE &amp; REPAIR



Ormewood Park, SE  
Neighborhood Walkthrough

Pedestrian safety is a top priority for the City of Atlanta. Potential hazards may be reported by a citizen or observed during a routine sidewalk inspection. Per the Atlanta City Code of Ordinances, sidewalk maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the abutting property owner. If a property owner receives a Sidewalk Assessment Notice, they should not be alarmed. DPW will work with property owners to address noted sidewalk hazards in the most cost effective manner. In a recent visit to Ormewood Park, SE concerned residents participated in a walk through to identify potential trip hazards and discuss best options for repairs. Residents were surprised to learn that many trip hazards can be corrected inexpensively. DPW appreciates the support of property owners in making sure that the public right-of-way is passable for all users. Visit the DPW webpage at [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) for more information about sidewalk maintenance and repair.

- Lawrence Jeter, Manager  
DPW Sidewalk Maintenance Program - Email: [ljeter@atlantaga.gov](mailto:ljeter@atlantaga.gov)

Capital Projects  
as of January 2013  
Total \$46MWestlake Avenue Bridge to  
Reopen April 2013

- 10th Street Corridor Improvements
- Barge Road at Campbellton Road Intersection Improvements
- Bolton Road Streetscape (Paul Avenue to Marietta Boulevard)
- Cascade Mays Streetscape Improvement Project
- Danforth Road, SW Sidewalks
- East Atlanta Village, II
- Harris Homes Streetscape Improvement Project
- Lakewood Heights
- Streetscape Improvement Project
- Midtown North Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project
- Pryor Road Intersection Improvements
- Sherwood Forrest Round-A-Bout
- Westlake Avenue Bridge Emergency Closure
- West Wieuca Road Sidewalk Improvements



## FEBRUARY, HEALTHY HEART AWARENESS MONTH

On any given day, Construction Inspector Carl McRae can be found traveling around the city responding to issues in the public right-of-way. A member of the Office of Transportation's Engineering and Right of Way Management Team, Mr. McRae works with an inspection team whose responsibilities include

keep pushing under the notion of "no pain no gain", until one day when he experienced a tightening in his left shoulder and lower chest. "We have to listen to our body. When I felt tightening on my left side, my body was saying something was not right", said McRae. A call to his doctor led to a heart

encourage others to take care of their hearts, monitor stress levels and maintain a healthy well balanced diet. Once an avid meat eater, McRae now limits his meat intake. His diet includes steamed vegetables, raw fruits, salmon and tuna. "My doctors have cleared me to eat as I please, but doing so in moderation I only eat fried foods twice per week if at all, and aim more for baked or steamed foods", says McRae.

A loving and supportive family at home and at work also contributed to McRae's recovery. "I am so grateful to my DPW family for support during my illness. My manager Nursef Kedir and fellow inspector Jerry Daniels carried my work load while I was away and countless coworkers around the department called and sent well wishes to my family. The support was overwhelming and very much appreciated", says McRae.

Heart disease is among the most common illnesses faced by Americans today. According to the American Heart association, women hold an even higher risk for heart problems.

Prevention starts with everyone. Find out more information at: [www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/](http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/).

- Valerie Bell-Smith  
Editor, DPW News



**Carl McRae encourages City employees to live healthy. He recently underwent triple heart bypass surgery as a result of extremely high cholesterol levels.**



*Learn and Live*

*Do you have a story idea, comment or suggestion for DPW Works on the Street? Send your comments to: DPW Works on the Street, ATTN: V. Bell-Smith, 55 Trinity Avenue, SW, #4700, Atlanta, GA 30303 or by email to [vbell-smith@atlantaga.gov](mailto:vbell-smith@atlantaga.gov).*

### DPW CONGRATULATES NELSON WILLIAMS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, SOLID WASTE



**Nelson Williams and fellow DPW Employees attend his artist exhibit on January 18, 2013.**

In collaboration with the City of Atlanta and the Office of Council Member Ivory Lee Young, the Auburn Avenue Research Library hosted "A Legacy of Excellence: Generations of African American Exceptionalism". This exhibit by Atlanta artist, Nelson Williams honors both the historical and contemporary contributions of African Americans and was presented in recognition of the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.



**DPW Transportation Employees participate in Employee Health Fair**

assistance with traffic engineering studies; inspection of street signs, regulatory markings, traffic light studies; and citizen reports of missing/damaged signs.

In 2012, the otherwise healthy and vibrant McRae began to notice subtle changes in his activity levels. He would become tired when doing routine activities such as walking and running.

Being accustomed to working out, McRae is no stranger to strenuous activity. He runs regularly and does weight lifting for exercise. When he felt his exercise activity levels declining, he would

stress test which revealed blockage in the arteries leading to his heart. According to the doctor's report he could have suffered a heart attack at any moment. McRae was immediately admitted to Piedmont Hospital where a team of surgeons completed a successful 5 hour heart bypass surgery to clear his arteries of cholesterol.

Mr. McRae credits a full recovery to his faith. "If you don't believe in God, an experience like this will certainly make you a believer", he smiles and goes on to say that he believes he now lives to share his story and

*DPW congratulates the City of Atlanta for being recognized among the top ten employers in the Atlanta metropolitan area for taking the lead in workplace health and fitness by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.*

## ATLANTA, GREEN CITY AWARD FINALIST (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago. One winner will be named from the three finalists in each category of small, mid, and large sized cities. If selected, the city will also be featured as a finalist in the March 18 issue of *Waste & Recycling News*.

"Atlanta is on its way to becoming a top-tier city for sustainability," said Mayor Kasim Reed. "We have made incredible strides in our recycling efforts, and this recognition further demonstrates our commitment to making our city a better place to live, work and play."

"Sustainability continues to be a top priority for the administration," said Chief Operating Officer Duriya Farooqui. "I applaud the work of the Department of Public Works and the Office of Sustainability for leading the charge on increasing recycling rates in our city."

"The Department of Public Works is proud to represent the City of Atlanta at the Green City Awards," said Deputy Public Works Commissioner Dexter C. White. "As the department responsible for overseeing residential recycling, we could not have been happier when our City was selected as a finalist for innovation in expanding recycling education and outreach. We serve 95,000 customers weekly. The success of the Cartlanta initiative reflects the support of our customers citywide who are getting recycling and furthering the



**Dexter C. White**  
DPW Deputy  
Commissioner

City's goals towards sustainability."

Deputy Commissioner Dexter C. White will appear as a speaker at the conference to share information about the City of Atlanta's commitment and dedication to recycling.

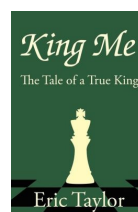
In October 2012, the city launched Cartlanta, an expanded residential recycling program with the intent to educate and improve recycling rates citywide. New 96-gallon recycling carts were delivered to 65,000 households at the rate of one thousand per day. The citywide distribution of carts is a key component of the city's sustainability plan, Power to Change, which has a long-term goal of achieving 90 percent diversion of municipal waste by 2020, among other measures.

City of Atlanta residents generate about 96,000 tons of trash annually, which costs the city \$7

million a year to dispose of in landfills. Currently, residents only recycle 12,000 tons annually, which leaves significant room for improvement. Since the launch of Cartlanta, recycling rates have improved significantly. Additionally, an expanded internal recycling program led by the Office of Sustainability, has seen a six-fold increase in collection rates. In addition to the environmental benefits, diverting recyclables from landfills produces revenue for the City at a rate of \$30 per ton.

For more information about the city's residential recycling program, please visit [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) or call 404.330.6333.

- Valerie Bell-Smith  
Editor, DPW News



Congratulations to Eric Taylor, son of Gwendolyn Windle, Solid Waste Services - Maddox Park. Mr. Taylor's first book "King Me, The Tale of a True King," The book is available online where most books are sold.

## CONGRATULATIONS COMMISSIONER RICHARD MENDOZA & THE 2012 ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES



B. Bolick, T. Britton, C. Brooks, T. Bussey, M. Cantrell, J. Cheek, P. Cherry, R. Clarkson, G. Coleman, M. Conroy, B. Cornelius, D. Corso, J. Crist, S. Jacobs-Dade, T. Gogan, M. Farmer, N. Faulk, J. Forrestall, E. Freeman, N. Galloway, E. Garey, S. Guhathakurta, D. Harris, J. Heard, D. Hourigan, B. Jones, S. Jordan, T. Killingsworth, J. Krueger, S. LaDart, E. Mayer, C. McCoy, B. McMillan, C. McMullen, B. McNeese, **R. Mendoza**, K. Miller, A. Mintz, C. Moody, E. Munster, P. Niyar, M. Wilkins, J. Rohadfox, L. Sherman, L. Thacker, M. Vlkovic, J. Walker, W. Wang, D. Williams, M. Willis ([www.atlantaregional.com](http://www.atlantaregional.com)).